



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14, 2022

County Contact: Jason W. Boyd
440.350.2745
jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov

Lake County Senior Services Levy Set to Expire

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, July 14, 2022— The Board of Lake County Commissioners approved a resolution to place an issue on the November 8 ballot. The issue seeks to renew the existing 0.8 mill senior services levy to continue to help address the need for senior services.

The senior services levy currently generates approximately \$4.5 million annually and is set to expire December 31, 2022. Since the last renewal in 2017, the Board of Commissioners has implemented several new programs with the help of area agencies. Some of these include adding funding to Job & Family Services to allow for the dedicated Adult Protective Services unit, the creation of the Volunteer Guardian Program, a partnership between the Lake County Probate Court and Lifeline, as well as the creation of a non-medical in-home care program currently administered by the Lake County Council on Aging.

“Over the last few years, we have worked to implement new programs to ensure we address the critical needs of some of the county’s most vulnerable citizens. The revenue generated by this senior services levy is essential to properly address those needs and issues. Our seniors have spent their lives doing their part to make Lake County a wonderful place; let’s protect them and help maintain their dignity and quality of life in return,” said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck, President of the Board of Lake County Commissioners. “Passage of this levy is necessary to achieve that goal.”

According to the U.S. Census, 27% of Lake County’s population is 60 and older. By 2030, this group’s population share will increase to nearly 34%, outnumbering youth 20 years and younger. Lake County’s fastest growing subgroup, 85 years and older, is estimated to increase 55% between 2010 and 2030. This expected growth in Lake County outpaces that of the state.

“As the number of seniors continues to grow in Lake County so do their needs. This renewal levy is not a tax increase, and it provides vital services to seniors through our local senior centers, Lake County Council on Aging and the Lake County Volunteer Network,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “I will always support our seniors, and I am confident the voters of Lake County will continue their support this November.”

In addition to the previously mentioned services, the senior levy currently funds home delivered and congregate meals, case management services, home maintenance and modification projects, health & wellness activities and socialization opportunities at the local seniors centers, transportation to and from the senior centers, as well as volunteer opportunities for seniors, to name a few.

“Federal funding for senior programs remains flat and the cost to maintain services is increasing. For less than a dollar per month, we can protect and expand the services our vulnerable, elderly citizens need to remain safe and healthy. Many seniors do not have family that can care for them and we must do our part to make sure no one falls through the cracks,” said Commissioner Mark Tyler.

For more information, please contact the Senior Services Coordinator, Alyea Barajas, at 440-350-2748.

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